



KINGS

NEWSLETTER FROM KINGS WORLD TRUST FOR CHILDREN

2011 - Edition - 1

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Encouraging Words from the British Deputy High Commissioner to Southern India

The British Deputy High Commissioner was so impressed with what he saw when he came to visit the Trust, that he has kindly written a testimonial letter for us, which is replicated below:

As the Patron of Kings World Trust for Children in India, I highly commend the Trust's outstanding work in providing care, education, training and medical support to some of the most marginalised and disadvantaged children and young people in South India. KWTC is a dedicated and experienced Charity and Aid Agency, which fully understands the concept of sustainability and delivers development aid, in a professional and highly competent manner, through its 200 trained staff, to the 1600 children and young people in the current programmes.

Their residential care homes are very special places for children, many of whom have not known love and care in their short lives. The modern Kings School Campus with its high academic standards compares favourably with leading schools in Europe or the USA. The Outreach programmes bring support and a lifeline to many children with severe physical and mental disabilities and also provide an education and training to so many children and young people who without Kings World Trust to support them and their families, would face difficult circumstances.

Kings World Trust children are happy, strongly motivated and now have a real opportunity to fulfill their potential through education and training. I cannot speak more highly of the vital work and dedication of KWTC and its staff and I do encourage you to give your full support to the future development of this unique children's charity and its amazing work in South India.



Mike Nithavrianakis

Patron

Kings World Trust for Children(India)
British Deputy High Commissioner to Southern India

Outreach Children

Lucy's father had contracted AIDS while working in Mumbai before he was married. He hid the truth and went ahead with the marriage, eventually transmitting the infection to his wife. Last year he died leaving his wife and two daughters destitute, although one good thing is that the children are HIV negative. However the girls and their mother have been shunned by both their father's and mother's families, who threw them out on the street due to the fear of other members of the family catching AIDS and do not support them in any way. The mother found it almost impossible to support the girls and was certainly unable to afford to send them to school. Hearing the story of one of the beneficiaries of the Outreach Programme, the mother approached the Trust and we were pleased to be able to help her. The family is now living in a rented house, the girls are attending school and we are helping with the costs of rent and food.



Childcare >>

Medical Support >>

Education >>

Volunteers >>



Medical Camp

A dental check-up was organised for all children through 'Gerdy Gutperle Agastiyar Muni Child Care Centre', Vellamadam, starting in October. Over a two month period the children went off in groups of 15 to be checked and any who needed further attention returned to receive treatment. We are very grateful to the members of the team for donating their services to the children.



SPORTS AT KINGS



Kings Swimming Rolling Trophy

On 23rd October we hosted the Tri District Swimming Meet, where thirty schools with around 200 students participated. Children from six to nineteen years participated in the different events. There were 72 events which included backstroke, freestyle, butterfly, breaststroke and relay. One of the students from Kings School, Ajay Vishwaraj, won the Individual Championship for the six years age group. The overall championship was won by Vivekananda Vidhyashram Matriculation Higher Secondary School, Tirunelveli.

The dignitaries present were Mr TV Gnanavelu, Secretary, Tamil Nadu State Aquatic Association; Mr K Xavier Jothi Sargunam, District Sports Officer, Tirunelveli and Mr Sethu Thirumaran, Secretary, Tirunelveli District Aquatic Association.

Kings Host the Basketball Rolling Trophy Competition

Kings School and Tirunelveli District Basketball Association together conducted the Tri District Basketball Competition on 21st and 22nd January. Nine schools with both junior and senior teams participated.

The Senior category, was won by Kings Matric Hr Sec School who secured 41 points against St Lassal Hr. Sec. School's 36 points in the finals. In the Junior finals, Kings School secured 16 points and were runners up to Bell Matric Hr. Sec. School who secured 26 points.

The victorious teams were congratulated by Mr Colin Wagstaff, Chairman and Founder of Kings School and Mr J Navamani, Correspondent of Kings School. Mr Mohan, Secretary of Tirunelveli Basketball Association appreciated all the winners. Mrs Gloria Rajakumari, Principal of Kings School gave the vote of thanks.



State Runners Up!

On 26th October, a District Level Basketball meet was held at Lassall Higher Secondary School, Tuticorin. Our Senior Basketball team played against Bell Matric Hr Sec School, Palayamkottai and won by 20 points. Our team made their way through to the finals against Lassall Hr Sec School, where they met tough competition. However they were triumphant, winning the match by 39 points to 32 and qualified for the State Level Basketball competition.

The State Level match was on 6th Jan 2011, where our team played against the Neyvelli Sports team, Ramanathapuram. Our team played an outstanding match and secured 45 points against the Neyvelli team who eventually won by securing 48 points.

Sibin raj (X), Hari Baskar(X), Venkata Krishnan (X), Nithin Romario (X), Thomas Vijay Abraham (X), Pon Geethan (X), Sajan (IX), Subin (IX), Prakash (IX), Aathi Prakash (IX), Dhanesh (IX), Mustafa (IX) were the team members and special mention goes to Thomas Vijay Abraham, Sibin & Hari Baskar who gave wonderful performances.



Celebrations



Christmas

The 2010 Christmas Tree Function took place on Saturday 18th December in a wonderful and happy atmosphere in Abdul Kalam Hall. Trust children, Outreach children and their parents and families were joined by the KWTC India Trustees: Mr Kamaya Naiakar, Mrs Alice Leslie, Mr Rajendrasingh and Mr Ravi and special guests from England, the Lyall family- Paul, his wife Lynn and their children Christopher and Sophie.

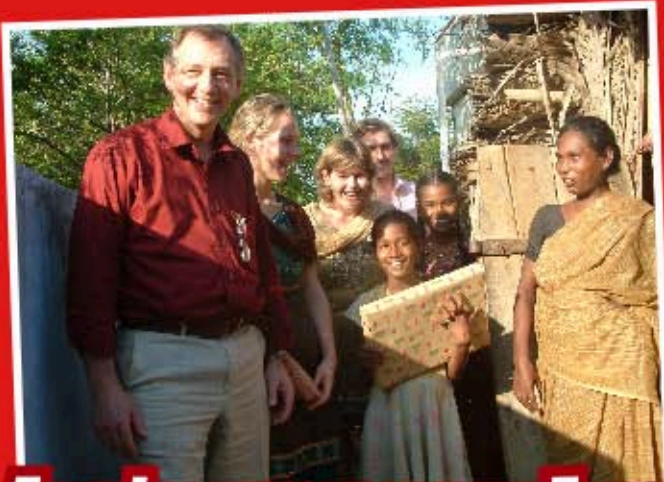
The main event of the evening was a Cultural Programme presented by Trust students. This programme consisted of a competition between four teams, headed by captains Monica (Roja), Catherine (Mallikai), Belsi (Thamarai) and Kavitha (Sevanthi), who competed in 4 rounds of dancing – cinema, western, property and themed. The dancing was lively, energetic, imaginative and much appreciated by the audience cheering on their teams. Mr Raja, the judge, evaluated their performances under 5 topics: song selection, make-up and costume, facial expression, variety of steps and co-ordination. The award for first prize was presented to Kavitha for the Sevanthi team. Congratulations to all who took part for their commitment and creativity. Mr Navamani gave a vote of thanks, then there was an impressive firework display followed by a delicious supper.



PONGAL

On Saturday, 15th January the Trust celebrated Pongal – the harvest season festival. Many of the children had gone away to spend the Pongal holiday weekend with friends or relatives, but those who stayed at the Trust also had a very good time. The children, along with the volunteers, watched the foster mothers and residential staff preparing Pongal in the traditional mud pot. They explained to the children the meaning of Pongal and why and how it is celebrated. Later the children were taken to Manimuthar, a dam near Tirunelveli, for a picnic. Everyone enjoyed the ceremony and their trip out.





FIRST IMPRESSIONS OF A NEW TRUSTEE

After a friend introduced me to the work of the Kings World Trust, we decided to sponsor two children. My family sat down and chose 'our girls' – two sisters – from photographs and a brief description. We hoped that a little financial help would keep a family together and that, in time, the girls would succeed in life and go on to be able to help others. We could see who our money was going to.

Just before Christmas, I was invited to become a Trustee of the UK charity. Before I could accept, I needed to see the work of the Trust at first hand. Our whole family decided to visit Tamil Nadu.

We flew out via Abu Dhabi for our first experience of India. On arrival at Trivandrum, we were met by Colin Wagstaff, the founder of the charity, and driven the 4 hours to Valioor. India is full of noise, full of sensation. The driving was extraordinary – the largest vehicle always has right of way, especially if it has the loudest horn.

The Kings School is like a little piece of England. The children are clean, bright eyed, cheeky, yet polite and engaging. 'How are you, Uncle?' 'I am fine, thank you'. Questions, questions.... The most admirable thing was that one could not tell which of the 1200 students were fee-paying and which were on bursaries: all were treated equally. The split is about 60/40, which enables the Kings School to be almost self-funding, bar some capital injections for new facilities, which include a swimming pool. The pupils here are very lucky children and should do well in the world, even if they have to move to Chennai or Bangalore to get a decent job.

The orphanages (Kings Haven for boys and Kings Field for girls) were even more special. Housing up to 80 orphans each, these were less palatial but clearly a very caring long-term home for a bunch of exceptionally chirpy and happy kids. The standard of English was lower here, which is why many attend the local government school.

A very special moment was meeting 'our' sponsored girls and their mother. Whilst their home was little more than a shack, the girls were immaculate. All that the family owned fitted into one suitcase. We treated them to a trip into town and some new clothes. More importantly, we made a proper emotional connection. Their mother is a lovely lady, full of smiles but down on her luck. We felt privileged to be able to help keep the family together by donating a few pounds and giving a bit of love. We now know that we are doing absolutely the right thing. No doubts whatsoever.

A very sobering moment was seeing some of the medical outreach children. Locked into bodies that did not work, yet desperate to communicate, these are kids in real need. We saw one poor mother bringing up 4 severely disabled children on her own: the Trust was helping her with living expenses. In many cases, the Trust is the only form of help available. If you can help, you should.

We will be back. Lynne, a teaching assistant in UK, made an instant connection with the kids. Sophie (18) will be back as a volunteer. I will do what I can as a Trustee in the UK and hope to return to deliver some leadership skills training. Our biggest worry in returning will be remembering the names of all the kids we met – they are desperate to be remembered. 'What is my name?' is the standard question, and one doesn't want to disappoint.

Paul Lyall

KWTC **spice** for life DINNER

On 20 November 2010, by kind permission of The Royal School in Haslemere, 130 guests gathered for a charity curry dinner in aid of the Kings World Trust for Children. Sadly, the KWTC founder, Colin Wagstaff, could not be there but his wife Anne-Marie was a guest together with the other Trustees.

After a welcoming drink, donated by Rob & Cathy Thorne, the guests were introduced to the workings of the charity by the Board of Trustees' Chairman, Nick Pasricha, and this was followed by a 10 minute film explaining the good work of the Trust.

Dinner was then served with a delicious selection of curries and deserts provided by Pat Chapman of The Curry Club. This was accompanied by an abundance of wine supplied by Richard Royds of The Haslemere Cellar. There followed another short film showing some of the sponsored children in India and a brief talk by Nick who then introduced Michael Nicholson as the Auctioneer for the evening. Huge thanks go to Hamish Donaldson, Chairman of the The Royal School's Board of Governors, who enhanced the Auction with a wonderful presentation film of the prizes which encouraged some enthusiastic bidding! During the evening there was also a Silent Auction and Raffle together with a sale of 12 lovely paintings of Indian scenes provided by the Art Master at Kings School in India, Mariappan.

The generosity of the guests was outstanding and the proceeds and profits of the event amounted to £10,500. Added to that success was the wonderful news that KWTC has found 16 new sponsors.

The Haslemere team of Trustees and helpers worked very hard to create a fantastic evening. The room looked lovely, with beautiful flower arrangements on each table donated by David & June Elliott, and sincere thanks go to everyone who generously donated prizes for the auction, silent action and raffle.

The children who live in the Trust come from many different backgrounds and by giving them love, security and an education we hope to lay the foundations for happy, fulfilled lives.



Future

Sending out the newsletter by email would save the Trust a lot of money in printing and postage, although we realise that this would not be convenient for everyone and we are keen to ensure that you regularly receive up to date news of what's happening in the Trust.

However if you would like to receive your newsletter by email in future could you please let us know by sending an email to our distribution office at: trust@kingsindia.in Please include details of your name, address and contact number.



New Office

A new office for Kings School was opened on Thursday, 20th January. The opening ceremony was performed by Mr. Colin Wagstaff who cut the ribbon at 3 pm and declared the building 'open'. Formerly the health clinic the building has recently been renovated and redecorated to a very high standard. Work on the building, started just over two weeks ago. Everyone agrees they have done an excellent job. The new office, situated at the entrance to the school grounds, will be used primarily for parents to pay school fees, thereby ensuring minimal disturbance to staff and pupils during the school hours. The occasion was celebrated in accordance with traditional Tamil culture – "Lighting the Lamp" and "Boiling the Milk", both local customs were, integral parts of the opening ceremony. Along with Colin, Mr Navamani, Correspondent, Mrs Gloria Rajakumari, Principal; Mrs Gomathi and Mrs Priya – staff at the New Office did the function of lighting the lamp. Those in attendance on the occasion included Mr Vivekananth, Mrs Jothi, Mrs Rekha, Mrs Lalitha, Mrs Pupsy, Mrs Shantha, Mrs Shauna Maria, Mrs Tamil Selvi and Mrs Janci Rani. Mrs Rosemary Kitchin and Mrs Theresa Swann, Volunteers were also present and the later acted as an official photographer.

Information for Sponsors

- English is not the first language of your sponsored child and all Trust children do need some assistance when writing to you.
- Please do not send cards, letters or presents for your sponsored children to our UK or USA offices. They should be sent direct to your child in India as KWTC has no mailing or carriage facilities.
- Money presents for sponsored children should be sent by Cheque to our UK & US offices and we will give them the rupee equivalent in India.



MEMORIAL SERVICE

On 2nd October, one of our students Ajay Karthick of std I 'B' met with a road accident and was killed. A memorial service was held at A K Hall on Friday, 15th October, and the choir sang and prayed for his soul to rest in peace.

OUR HOMES



Kings Haven

The new Kings Haven building is now completely ready and equipped. The new building accommodates 49 boys in two different dormitories – one for the junior boys and the other for the senior boys. There are two foster mothers who take care of them. The kitchen is fully equipped with all the necessary requirements. There is also a dining hall which can accommodate up to 80 children at a time. The children now have a more comfortable area to play and move around in and they have their own cupboards where they can keep their personal belongings.

The new building includes a room for ex-students when they visit us. This room is fully furnished and can accommodate up to twenty visitors.

Kings Field

Kings Field has a newly renovated Kitchen which is fully equipped and designed for convenience. The other rooms and quarters have been painted and other maintenance work has been carried out.





Chris Campbell

It has been a privilege to visit KWTC and to see the wonderful work that is being done to help care for and educate deprived children. The Trust children are clearly gaining greatly from the love, care and comfort of living within this environment giving them hope for a better life, without which they would clearly struggle. Kings School is clearly making a name for itself both academically and in sporting achievements. The children are very happy, polite, well behaved, keen to learn and appear to be very fond of the staff. The outreach programme is clearly valuable, caring for those who are impoverished, with the added burden of looking after their sick and terminally ill children. Our visit to the mother with five children four of whom are severely handicapped was a very moving experience and one I shall remember for a very long time. This is such an important programme and needs to survive. The terms "kindness, dedication, helping, moving, humbling, under privileged, determination, reality check, flagship, poverty, inspirational" have all become well worn phrases over the past eighteen days.



Leonor de Mollerat du Jeu

My time here at KWTCI has been unforgettable. The positive, encouraging and family-like atmosphere throughout the Trust is what stands out so forcefully where all the children move comfortably. I was overwhelmed by the enthusiasm and kindness of both the children and staff here at KWTCI and their eagerness to learn more – this is what made my experience here so special. The Trust runs so many projects which means we are occupied all the time teaching either in Kings School or in the local Anaikulam School. Everywhere you walk in Kings, the children are full of joy, their eyes shining, and I think this reflects exactly how special KWTCI is!



Rebecca Slater

I have had a really great time here at Kings, and I think I have learnt a lot. I didn't really know what to expect before I got here but the children have been so welcoming which was great. At Kings School I enjoyed taking some small groups from standard four to do creative writing. I could see their English and their writing improving over the weeks which was great. My experience here is something I will always remember, and I am very glad to have had this opportunity.

What Interns want to say about KWTC ...



Mrs Sheila Coulson

I found the KWTC experience quite challenging on a personal level, but felt well supported on the whole. I was a great deal older than the other volunteers, but found this was no problem as we were all here to work for the same cause. I hope to make a start immediately on creating art links with the boys at Shrewsbury House School and the children at Kings, and this has been discussed both here and at SHS. I go back with a much wider and deeper understanding of all that KWTC does and will be able to convey this with great conviction thanks to my time here.



Damian Broadhead and Laura Gillard

Elephant rides, temple visits, picnicking in a tiger reservation, learning how to eat rice with their fingers, these were just a few of the amazing experiences enjoyed by volunteers Laura Gillard, Damian Broadhead and Jemma Witenden. "There was always so much to get involved in, being at Kings is like being part of a family and we will certainly return to our new family soon" they enthused. Damian added, "I regard my experience at the Trust as one of the most enjoyable I have ever had. I have seen aspects and perspectives of life and the education system I could never have hoped to gain as a back-packing tourist and there was still time to sightsee and enjoy some wonderful very Indian experiences".



Daisy Campbell

My experience at Kings has been a real eye opener. The children are confident and speak English to a relatively high standard. The morning greetings of "Good Morning Auntie" from each child was really touching and so wonderful. The school children are comparable to children back home with a variety of personalities including cheeky ones! The big difference is the obvious respect towards their elders which is so refreshing. The Trust children are so happy, cheerful and an absolute delight to be around. Their backgrounds may be shocking and incredibly sad, however the new lease of life Colin Uncle and the KWTC team have given them is amazing. The children are clearly thankful and view this as their family.

FROM TRUST TO COLLEGE and back

In 2002 when Muthulakshmi was 13 years old, her father died of kidney failure. Her mother was left to care for herself and her young sister with no means of supporting them, until she was put in touch with KWTC who gave them a home. Muthulakshmi thrived, she went to St Aloysious Higher Secondary School, where she worked hard and achieved good results. She went on to college, and qualified with a B.Com with Computer. When she finished her course, Muthulakshmi came back to Kings as School Librarian. Muthulakshmi's talents are many and varied and she also helps with dancing for school productions and, in fact, generally helps wherever it is needed. Not content with all this, Muthulakshmi is continuing her studies part-time for a M.Com and plans to follow that with a B.Ed, thereby allowing her to achieve her ultimate goal which is to teach in Kings School.



THEME OF THE YEAR
JUST DO IT!

TRUSTEES



Mr Colin Wagstaff (Founder of KWTC); Mr Nigel Roberts (Deputy Chairman of KWTC - UK); Mrs Jyoti Motha (Indian Trustee); Mr Nick Pasricha (Chairman of KWTC - UK); Mr Ravi (Indian Trustee); Dr Kumara Murugan (Indian Trustee); Mr Kamaya Naicker; Mr Rajendra Singh (Indian Trustee) and Mr Navamani (Director).

*I know that
You Believe you
Understand what
You Think I said,
But,
I am not Sure
you Realize that
what you heard
is not
what I meant.*

TEACHER'S WORST NIGHTMARE!

6th

Annual Day Celebrations



Kings School celebrated its sixth Annual Day on Friday, 28th January and was pleased to welcome special guests Mr Nick Pasricha and Mr Nigel Roberts, Chairman and Deputy Chairman of KWTC, UK, and Mr Kumara Murugan, Mr Ravi, Mr Rajendra Singh and Mrs Jothi Motha, Trustees of KWTC India. Mr Appavu MLA, Radhapuram Constituency was the Chief guest and gave an encouraging speech not only to the children but also to the Management and all the staff, congratulating them for making things happen in a very positive manner.

The students performed an outstanding concert of traditional and not so traditional songs and dances; there were mimes, a fashion parade and an instrumental performance all of which delighted the audience of some 4,500 people.

The vote of thanks was given by Mrs Pupsy, Junior School Head, who in turn was thanked for all the hard work she had put in to make the show such a success.



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PROFESSIONAL FUNDRAISER

KWTC has ambitious plans to extend our Education Outreach Programme to bring the chance of a brighter future to many more children in Southern India. To ensure the success of these plans, as well as bringing stability to our existing work, the Trustees have decided to recruit a professional Fundraiser. If you are an experienced fundraiser or know of one, and would be interested in applying, then please see the following ad....



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EXPERIENCED PROFESSIONAL FUND RAISER

A full-time Fundraiser based in Central London is sought by KWTC. An interest in the work of the Trust, coupled with experience of developing and executing a fund raising strategy for a medium size or large charity is essential. Salary is negotiable for the right person and there will be opportunities for travel to the Trust in India. In the first instance, please send CV and covering email to: KWTC@swannrecruitment.co.uk

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